Losses to NAFED

404. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) has been running into losses year after year, if so, the details of the losses incurred during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 and

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "Everything is wrong with NAFED' which published in the Hindustan Times of January 27, 1987, highlighting laxity and mismanagement in the organisation, if so, whether Government have probed into its affairs, and if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) The profit and loss position of NAFED during the three years period is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Profit/Loss
1983-84	(—) 2.41
1984-85	(+) 1.18
1985-86	(+) 3.78

(b) Subsequent to the publication of the news reports of NAFED on 27-1-1987 and 6-2-1987, the achievements of NAFED and its programme of activities have been reported by various Newspapers on 18-2-1987. The Auditors have submitted their Report on NAFED for 1985-86 to Central Registrar. The Compliance of the Report will be considered by the General Body of NAFED on 12-3-1987. No further action is contemplated by the Government at this stage.

Shortage of drinking water in Gujarat

405. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scarcity conditions prevail in several districts of Gujarat State;

(b) whether thousands of villagers in the State are likely to face shortage of drinking water; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government have taken to assist the State Government in fighting the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the Memorandum on Drought submitted by the Gujarat Government, 16 out of 19 districts in the State have been affected by drinking water scarcity. Following a visit to the State by a Central Team in January, 1987, the High Level Committee on Relief of Central Government has recommended appropriate financial assistance to Gujarat.

Pilot project for rice productions

406. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pilot project was launched to increase rice productivity in Assam, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Eastern Andhra Pradesh during 1984-85 and 1985-86; and

(b) if so, what is the rate of growth of rice production in Eastern States after the introduction of the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) A pilot project